

In the Claims:

Please amend claim1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for detecting or quantitating an analyte present in a liquid sample, comprising

reacting the liquid sample with an analyte-reaction reagent,

by said reacting, generating a solution of a first coil-forming peptide having a selected charge for interacting with a second, oppositely charged coil-forming peptide to form a stable α -helical coiled-coil heterodimer,

contacting the first coil-forming peptide generated by said reaction with a biosensor having a detection surface with surface-bound molecules of said second, oppositely charged coil-forming peptide, under conditions effective to form a stable α -helical coiled-coil heterodimer on said detection surface, where binding of the coil-forming peptide to the immobilized coil-forming peptide measurably alters a signal generated by the biosensor, [and]

measuring the signal generated by the biosensor to determine whether said coiled-coil heterodimer formation on said detector surface has occurred, and

correlating said generated signal to the presence of the analyte in the sample.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated April 17, 2002 is respectfully requested. Applicants petition the Commissioner for a 3-month extension of time. A separate petition accompanies this amendment. Claims 1-10 are currently under examination.

I. Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above. Support for the amended method step can be found on at least page 1, line 22-23 of the specification.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant